



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

Jacksonville District

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# News Release

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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

## **CORPS OF ENGINEERS BEGAN RELEASES FROM LAKE OKEECHOBEE**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began a Level 3 pulse release from Lake Okeechobee to the Caloosahatchee River and the St. Lucie Canal on Wednesday, September 15, 2004. Rainfall over the Kissimmee River basin due to Hurricane Frances has resulted in extremely wet conditions in the tributary area and increased inflow to the Lake. Releases cannot be sent to the Water Conservation Areas since they are above their respective regulation schedules and conveyance capacity through the EAA (Everglades Agricultural Area) is not available.

Pulse releases are designed to mimic nature and provide discharges from the lake to the estuaries via the St. Lucie Canal to the east and the Caloosahatchee River to the west. They attempt to strike a balance between the lake's littoral zone and the estuaries. In the future, the ongoing Everglades restoration, known as CERP, is designed to provide storage for much of this water and minimize these types of releases.

Tuesday's lake level was 15.09 feet, in Zone D of the WSE (Water Supply/Environment) regulation schedule. As the hurricane season progresses,

additional pulse releases may be necessary. This pulse release will continue for 10 days at an average rate of 3,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) to the Caloosahatchee River and 1,170 cfs to the St. Lucie Canal. The pulse release will be made through Structures S-77 and S-80.

For further information, please call the Jacksonville District Corporate Communications Office at 904-232-2236 or (cell) 904-614-4976.